

Economics B (F710216)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Defloor, Bart

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Science in Business Administration](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Business Administration](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Public economics, macroeconomics, sustainable development, allocation, distribution, stabilisation, welfare, Internationalisation@Home, state, market, policy measures, state failure, policy failure, market failure, market, policy measures, budgetary and monetary policy, deadweight loss, inequality and poverty, climate, capital, natural capital and ecosystem services, taxation.

Position of the course

This course offers a general introduction in economics, focusing on public economics and macroeconomics. Step by step, an economic model is introduced. The course enables students, on the one hand, to understand the role of a public sector in the economy, on the other hand, the course enables students to build up a macroeconomic model, with a lot of attention to building up models (concepts to understand connections). A lot of attention is devoted to a accurate definition of concepts (inflation, the business cycle, recessions,...): reasoning without a good definition of concepts is not possible.

The public economic part deals with arguments for government intervention (minimal state, allocation, distribution, stabilisation), public choice, consequences of public intervention.

The macro-economic part starts with the definition and analysis of concepts (labour market, money market, capital market, balance of payments, national accounts...), which are used as building blocks for the aggregate demand and supply model.

This model is used to analyse monetary and budgetary policy.

In each of the chapters, several links with sustainability and sustainable development are analysed.

Contents

The public economic part consists of

- Arguments for the existence of a public sector: minimal state and three further arguments: allocation (market failure: public goods, externalities, market power, asymmetric and imperfect information, behavioural arguments), distribution (measurement of inequality and poverty, consequences of distributive policy), stabilisation (demand and supply side policy).
- Government failure (public choice)
- Consequences of public sector interventions (indirect taxes, quota,...).
- Each of these topics is linked with sustainable development during the lectures.

The macro economic part consists of

- An introduction in macro economic issues and macro economic quantities.
- Introduction of the functioning of the goods and services market, the money market, the labour market, exchange markets and the capital market.
- An analysis of macro economic developments using aggregate supply and demand. The model is built up step by step: first only demand goods and services, then demand with interaction between the monetary and real developments, finally analysis of aggregate demand and supply.
- An analysis of macro economic policy with attention to income, unemployment, inflation...
- Sustainable development plays an important role also from a macroeconomic perspective: consequences of economic growth for CO2 emissions, beyond GDP, greening monetary policy

Initial competences

No prerequisites.

Final competences

- 1 Having knowledge of and being able to use concepts, models, variables, analyses specific to the fields of public economics and macro-economics, on an introductory level.
- 2 Understand the relations between economic variables and changes in these variables.
- 3 Understand consequences of public sector decisions and macroeconomic evolutions for companies and consumers.
- 4 Be able to apply this basic framework to solve exercises, cases and economic problems.
- 5 Be able to critically reflect on and comprehend current public economic and macroeconomic issues and evolutions.
- 6 Be able to reason in a scientific way in economics: the use of simplifying assumptions in a model in contrast to the complexity of reality.
- 7 Understanding the links between economic development and sustainability. Defining welfare as a multidimensional concept.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Ten weeks of lectures. Online exercises and three exercises sessions in smaller groups. More information about the group assignment will be communicated via Ufora.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Wegwijs in Economie

Indicative price: € 60

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Koen Schoors, Stijn Goeminne, Johan Albrecht, Bruno Merlevede en Bart Defloor

ISBN : 978-9-46393-709-2

Number of Pages : 888

Oldest Usable Edition : 1873

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Additional information: Zelfde handboek voor Economie A (1BA HW eerste semester)

Type: Slides

Name: course slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Slides : 700

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Kernbegrippen van economie, Gegory Mankiw

Course content-related study coaching

Students have the opportunity to ask questions during the breaks or after the lectures. Extra guidance is also organised by the tutors of the faculty, who organise extra exercise sessions and a sample exam. There is also the possibility to meet the tutors individually.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam with multiple choice questions, exercises and general questions.

Calculation of the examination mark

The exam is evaluated on 19 points, the group assignment is evaluated on 1 point.

The exam consists of mce questions (60% of the grade) and an open question with subdivisions (40% of the grade).

The grade of the group assignment is transferred to the second exam session.